

***Believe in NM Girls 2007: On the Road Project***

Following the success of the *Year of the New Mexico Girl, Believe in NM Girls 2006* and *GIRLS: Challenges/Choices*, the NM Commission on the Status of Women will hold town halls for girls, ages 15-18, in early 2007.

"We are excited about going out into the community and reaching girls where they live," states Executive Director Mary Molina Mescall. "Not all girls can travel to Albuquerque for an annual conference so this year we are going to them."

The Commission will hold the following Girls' Town Halls:

**Deming on Tuesday, March 27, 2007**

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**Las Vegas on Thursday, March 29, 2007**

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**Gallup on Tuesday, April 17, 2007**

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**Carlsbad - during the first week of April**

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**Albuquerque Charter Schools - in April**

The goal of the project includes:

- provide a platform for girls to have their voices heard on problems facing them in their communities;
- record participants' thoughts on challenges and solutions to these problems that can be shared with service providers to improve delivery of services to girls; and,
- offer girls an opportunity to represent their community and peers.

The girls' program continues to use the Commission's informal survey report, *Dreams and Sorrows: Young Women in New Mexico*, as a guide to program planning and the majority of topics to be covered are also identified in the State of New Mexico 2006 Comprehensive Strategic Health Plan. Identified in the survey as being of the highest concern and interest to girls, the subjects include body image, dating violence, depression/suicide, substance abuse and teen pregnancy.

"The Commission is hoping for another successful project aimed at New Mexico girls," states Molina Mescall. "The format will encourage girls to become solution-oriented and raise further awareness about these problems."

For further information on ***Believe in NM Girls 2007: On the Road Project***, please contact Kathi Brown at [kathi.brown@state.nm.us](mailto:kathi.brown@state.nm.us) or Kathy Chavez at [kathym.chavez@state.nm.us](mailto:kathym.chavez@state.nm.us)

**PROGRAM SPONSORED IN PART BY:**

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